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preliminary list*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 19 June 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of a statement issued on 10 June 1996 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan in connection with China's latest nuclear test at the Lop Nor test site (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 66 and 71 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Akmaral Kh. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
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* A/51/50.

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ANNEX

Statement issued on 10 June 1996 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan

It was with great concern that Kazakstan learned of the recent nuclear test at the Lop Nor test site in the Xinjiang-Uygur Autonomous Republic, which borders our State. Kazakstan has consistently advocated a nuclear-test ban and the signing of a treaty on the subject, and has also consistently held the view that China should make its contribution to the achievement of this goal, sought by all countries that desire to make the world safer by removing the nuclear threat.

In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakstan welcomes the statement issued by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs that China has joined the moratorium on nuclear testing. This important step, which marks the cessation of testing by all the nuclear Powers, will undoubtedly create conditions conducive to the signing of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty and will ensure reliable conditions for the further harmonization of international relations.